

## **RCI-20 - Incentives for Improved Design and Construction (e.g. Energy Star, LEED, green buildings, expedited permitting)**

### **Benefit/Cost of Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>e:**

Arizona: 18 MMt between 2007-2020; 1.9% of 2020 emissions; \$-17/ton  
New Mexico: 7.4 MMt between 2007-2020; 1.3% of 2020 emissions; \$-2/ton  
Colorado: Medium reduction potential; Low cost  
N. Carolina: 10 MMt between 2007-2020; 0.6% of 2020 emissions; \$-14/ton

### **Assessment: High Priority. Bin A. 21 out of 22 votes.**

This policy option can offer significant GHG emissions reduction benefits and potential cost savings. In addition, such incentive programs can be readily implemented.

Improved design and construction incentives can include tax credits, preferential permitting, enhanced utility incentives, education, and training.

Utah currently has an Energy Star program. Energy Star® labeled homes incorporate energy savings in design and construction and use 15 percent less energy.<sup>28</sup>

Rocky Mountain Power and Questar offers incentives to contractors who build energy-efficient homes. Energy efficient mortgages are available to purchase these homes and to remodel existing homes.<sup>29</sup>

Rocky Mountain Power's Energy FinAnswer provides cash incentives to help commercial and industrial customers improve their heating, cooling, refrigeration, compressed air, lighting, or industrial process. New construction and retrofit projects for all industrial facilities can participate as well as new commercial projects and retrofits in facilities larger than 20,000 square feet.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.energystar.gov>

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.utahenergystar.org/financial\\_benefits.html](http://www.utahenergystar.org/financial_benefits.html)

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.rockymtnpower.net/Navigation/Navigation71490.html>